

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for creating links to enhanced content on a video stream using a hot spot template, said method comprising:
creating [[a]] at least one hot spot template in an externally referenced document, said hot spot template [[that]] defines at least one attribute assignable to hot spots, said attributes assignable to hot spots comprising
a visual attribute, said visual attribute defining how an associated hot spot appears when displayed, and
a mouseOver attribute, said mouseOver attribute defining a hot spot behavior when a cursor is position over said associated hot spot;
enabling a user to halt said video stream so as to provide a single video frame for viewing;
providing a graphical user interface for receiving from the user a geometric outline defining a hot spot on said single video frame and for receiving a [[URL]] link for said hot spot;
assigning said at least one attribute to said hot spot based on said hot spot template in said separate hotspot template file ; wherein all visual attributes of said hot spot, other than said geometric outline, are assigned solely based on said template; and
embedding said hot spot and said attributes in a first format into a video stream.

9. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot template comprises at least one visual a mouseOver attribute that specifies an icon to be displayed when a cursor is positioned over said associated hot spot assignable to hot spots.

10. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot template further comprises a language attribute assignable to hot spots.

11. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot template further comprises a URL link attribute assignable to hot spots.

12. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot template further comprises an attribute that determines the set top box used to display said hot spot.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for creating customized links to enhanced content on a video stream using a hot spot template, said method comprising:

creating [[a]] at least one hot spot template in an externally referenced document, said hot spot template [[that]] defines at least one attribute for hot spots, said attributes assignable to hot spots comprising

a visual attribute, said visual attribute defining how an associated hot spot appears when displayed, and

a mouseOver attribute, said mouseOver attribute defining a hot spot behavior when a cursor is position over said associated hot spot;

enabling a user to halt said video stream so as to provide a single video frame for viewing;

providing a graphical user interface for receiving from the user a geometric outline to defining a hot spot on said single video frame and for receiving a [[URL]] link for said hot spot;

assigning said at least one attribute to said hot spot based on said hot spot template in said separate hotspot template file, wherein all visual attributes of said hot spot, other than said geometric outline, are assigned solely based on said template;

storing said hot spot and said attributes in a generic format;

translating said hot spot and said attributes from said generic format into a first format, said translating being done with said hot spot template; and

embedding said hot spot and said attributes in said first format into a video stream.

14. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 13, said method further comprising:

changing at least one attribute of said hot spot template;

translating said hot spot and said attributes from said generic format into a second format;

and

embedding said hot spot and said attributes in said second format into a video stream.

15. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 13 wherein said translating is accomplished by an XSL translator.

16. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first format is adapted to be displayed on a first set top box and said second format is adapted to be displayed on a second set top box.

17. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first format comprises a first set of visual attributes and said second format comprises a second set of visual attributes, said first set of visual attributes and said second set of visual attributes having at least one dissimilar attribute.

18. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first format comprises a first set of URL links and said second format comprises a second set of URL links, said first set of URL links and said second set of URL links having at least one dissimilar URL link.

19. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said at least one attribute is an enhancement attribute, the method further comprising:
displaying said hot spot using a first set top box on a video screen; and

allowing a viewer to access said hot spot whereby said viewer may access said enhanced content.

20. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 19, said method further comprising:

translating said hot spot and said attributes from said generic format into a second format; embedding said hot spot and said attributes in said second format into a video stream; displaying said hot spot using a second set top box on a video screen; and allowing a viewer to access said hot spot whereby said viewer may access said enhanced content.

21. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 19 wherein said translating is accomplished by an XSL translator.

22. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first set top box and said second set top box are different.

23. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first format comprises a first set of visual attributes and said second format comprises a second set of visual attributes, said first set of visual attributes and said second set of visual attributes having at least one dissimilar attribute.

24. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first format comprises a first set of URL links and said second format comprises a second set of URL links, said first set of URL links and said second set of URL links having at least one dissimilar URL link.

25. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first format is adapted to a first language and said second format is adapted to a second language.

26. (Currently Amended) The method [[of]] as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first format is adapted to a first language and said second format is adapted to a second language.